Menace To Muslim Culture

Basic Education Scheme Rejected

Bombay League Urges Release of Allama

A meeting of the Committee of the Bombay Provincial Muslim League was held on December 10 last, when the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) The Committee of the Bombay Provincial Muslim League wish to draw the attention of the Government that the prolonged and indefinite incarceration and detention without trial of Allama Mashriqi and the detention of other Khaksars is causing grave concern not only to the members of the Khaksar Organisation but to the Musalmans generally. In view of the changed situation the Committee urges the Govt. of India to reconsider their policy and release Allama Mashriqi and other Khaksar detenues without delay.

Indians in Ceylon

(2) The Committee has considered the Joint report of the delegations from India and Ceylon and is definitely of opinion that the proposals contained therein are prejudicial to the rights and interests of Indians in Ceylon and require fundamental and substantial modifications before they can be acceptable to the people of India. The said proposals nullify the effect of the undertakings given by the Government of Ceylon on the strength of which, the Government of India permitted immigration of Indians to Ceylon accordingly and Indians immigrated to Ceylon.

The delegations have overlooked the important fact that nothing resembling the manifold advantages, which have accrued to the Island of Ceylon from the production first of coffee and later of the tea and rubber, could possibly have been gained if Indian labour would not have been available to help Ceylon.

This meeting condemns the action of the Government of Ceylon in dismissing Indian workers from its service in 1939 as a serious violation of the laws of natural justice and of established conventions.

This Committee is emphatically of opinion that all Indians permanently settled in Ceylon should be entitled to full rights of citizenship such as franchise, holding of property, carrying on of trade, etc.

This Committee is of opinion that the conditions suggested for the acquirement of domicile are extremely stringent and very difficult of fulfilment by the Indian population in Ceylon.

Basic Education

(3) The Committee has carefully considered the scheme of Basic Education, prepared by the Congress Government when it was in charge of the Province of Bombay, and disapproves of the scheme, the curriculum and the Text Books, which have been prepared and sanctioned, on the following among other grounds:—

(a) Ostensibly the scheme emphasies the question of bread as the main object underlying the scheme by providing manual labour during the major part of the day but the real object underlying the scheme is to detach and dissociate the Musalmans from their own culture.

(b) The scheme is calculated to destroy Muslim culture gradually but surely and to secure the domination of Hindu culture.

(c) It is a part of the general scheme for the establishment of Hindu hegemony all over India in utter disregard to the just and natural aspirations of the Muslim nation in India.

(d) It imposes the Congress ideology and aims at inculcating, among others, the doctrines of *Ahimsa*.

(e) Its objective is to infuse the political creed, policy and programme of one party, viz., the Congress, into the minds of the children.

(f) Islam is not merely a religion but is a code of life. The Musalmans cannot, therefore, ever reconcile themselves to any system of education, such as this, inconsistent with Islam or its principles.

(g) It has neglected the question of providing facilities for religious education.

(h) Under the guise of Hindustani, which language is non-existent, the scheme is meant to spread what is highly Sanskritised Hindi and to suppress Urdu which is really the *lingua franca* of India at present.

(i) The Text Books prescribed and sanctioned by the Govt. of Bombay are highly objectionable from the Muslim point of view, in that they are not only offensive to the feelings and sentiments of the Musalmans, but they are mainly devoted to the praises of Hindu religion philosophy and heroes and minimise the Islamic contribution to the world, and India in particular, ignore Muslim culture, history and heroes and speak of them with scant courtesy.

Under the circumstances, the Committee is definitely against the opening of any Urdu Centre of Basic Education at any place in the Province of Bombay, as it is against the very basis of the scheme of Basic Education and considers it fundamentally wrong and injurious to the interest of the Musalmans.

(4) The Committee considered the Syllabus received from Government in response to our application for the Primary, Secondary and High School and it is of the opinion that the same are objectionable from many points of view and that the same are calculated to destroy Muslim culture gradually but surely and to secure the domination of Hindu culture. The Committee is further of the opinion that after a complete and detailed report is prepared on all the three syllabus by the Educational and Social Uplift Sub-Committee, it is imperative that a suitable representation in person be made to Government authorities concerned in connection with the syllabus.

Property Tax

(5) The Bombay Provincial Muslim League has throughout condemned the imposition of the Property Tax on various grounds and specially on the ground that it imposes a greater burden on the Musalmans, who as a rule invest their monies in immovable properties and the Muslim charities who invest their monies exclusively in immovable properties on account of the Islamic injunction against usury. This tax hits the Musalmans disproportionately and it is unjust and inequitable in its effects on various communities and various classes of property holders.

The Property Tax at the time of its imposition was ear-marked for the so-called prohibition policy of the Congress Government when in power and that policy has been substantially given up by the present Government, without prejudice to the contentions of the Musalmans against the very imposition of this tax, this Committee is firmly of opinion that this tax should be abolished altogether as the immediate purpose for which it was ear-marked has been substantially given up.

In spite of the large surplus in the current year's budget, the Government maintains this tax at a slightly reduced rate to meet unforeseen contingencies which may arise as a result of the War. But as the tax itself is inequitable, this Committee strongly urges upon the Government of Bombay to abolish the same with effect from April 1, 1942 and if any amount is required to be raised to meet extra expenditure occuring by the War, the same should be spread more equitably over all sections of the population and should not unduly burden any particular section or community, as this tax does.